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TIRF's 2015 DDG Call for Proposals Now Available

The [2015 Doctoral Dissertation Grants \(DDG\) call for proposals](#) is now available on TIRF's website. The DDG funding is intended to support worthy applicants who have advanced to candidacy (that is, they are in the dissertation phase in their doctoral programs) and whose dissertation research plans address topics that TIRF has prioritized.

These topics are [Bilingualism/Plurilingualism in Business, Industry, and the Professions](#), [Language Assessment](#), [Optimal Uses of Technology in the Delivery of English Language Instruction](#), [Language Teacher Education](#), [Students' Age and Effective English Language Education in Schools](#), and [Language Policy and Planning](#). Click any of the links above to read a detailed explanation of these research priorities.



Nick Saville

Two types of DDGs will be offered by TIRF in 2015. The first is our long-standing TIRF DDG that is supported by Cambridge English Language Assessment and many of our individual donors. Regarding this program, TIRF Trustee Nick Saville said, "Cambridge English Language Assessment is continuing its long-term association with TIRF by funding Doctoral Dissertation Grants this coming year. We are particularly interested in those that have to do with language assessment, but there have been many outstanding applications in recent years on a wide range of topics, which we are happy to support."



CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH
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The other type of grant offered by TIRF is the TIRF-British Council DDG. To be eligible for this type of award, all of the requirements listed in the call for proposals must be met by the applicant. In addition, applicants for these awards must either be from the countries or attending universities in the countries on the [OECD DAC list](#) of countries.



Alternatively, candidates from those countries may be attending universities elsewhere but be doing research that has the potential for positive impact in developing nations. The British Council is particularly interested in proposals that have clear implications for educational policy makers and others in positions to make decisions about English language education practices. Thus doctoral students from countries on the OECD DAC list are eligible, as are candidates whose work has the potential to directly and positively influence English language education in those countries.

John Knagg, the British Council's representative on the TIRF Board of Trustees, has been instrumental in developing the TIRF-British Council DDG opportunity. John said, "On behalf of the British Council, I'm pleased that this second year of our partnership with TIRF will reach even more potential applicants than did last year's call for proposals. We want to support research that will have a positive effect on language education policy in the under-resourced countries of the world."



John Knagg

Applications must comply with the required proposal format. In order to help potential applicants, TIRF has developed three new resources. The first is a simple [application form](#). There is also a series of [six brief instructional videos](#) about how to complete the application. These resources are posted on TIRF's website, as are a set of [frequently asked questions](#) (FAQs) and accompanying answers. The FAQs cover the topics of eligibility, budget and grant payments, the application process, and supervisors' letters of support.

MaryAnn Christison, the Chairman of TIRF's Research Advisory Committee, helped develop these resources. She said, "We are delighted to be able to share these new resources with our DDG applicants. We have worked hard this year to make the application process simpler and more straightforward."

DDGs are awarded for up to US \$5,000 per proposal. The deadline for receipt of complete proposals is Wednesday, April 22, 2015 (11:59 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time — Canada/USA). The project summaries of successful proposals and photographs of grant recipients will be posted on TIRF's website by October 31, 2015. For further information, please visit our website or write to info@tirfonline.org.

Editor's note: TIRF's DDG program started in 2002, and since that date, we have made awards to 62 grantees from 17 countries. ([Click here](#) to see where our grantees come from, and to learn about their doctoral studies.)

Each year, the highest rated DDG proposal is awarded in the name of the late [Russell N. Campbell](#). Dr. Campbell, a Past President of TESOL, was one of the founding fathers of TIRF. We are thankful to the many individual donors who faithfully donate to the award that is made in his name each year.

Reflecting on TIRF's DDG competition, Kathi Bailey, TIRF President, stated, "It's amazing to me how our busy Trustees, who all have full-time work responsibilities, collaborate to create such synergy in mounting our annual DDG competition."

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Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF

TIRF Tidbits: Holiday Song, Seasonal Poem, and Quiz Winner

TIRF Debuts First Musical Recording & Video

This year marks the first time we have ever recorded a song to help entice donors to support us with their financial contributions. TIRF President, Kathi Bailey, and TIRF's Executive Assistant, Ryan Damerow, recruited the assistance of three talented graduate students at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, where the TIRF offices are housed. Ms. Anita Krishnan, Mr. Robert Broom, and Mr. Tim Marquette lent their talents to us so that we could parody the holiday classic, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

If you are interested in listening to our song and watching the recording, please [click here](#). We would be thrilled to have your support of the Foundation if you can manage a donation to TIRF.

If you wish to read our annual appeal letter, [click here](#). You will read about the compelling stories of three TIRF grantees: Dr. Steven Talmy, Dr. Fatima Essell, and Mr. Jaehan Park. Your gifts to TIRF benefit our recipients and many stakeholders.

'Twas the Last of November

In case you missed our holiday poem, we wanted to give you another opportunity to read *'Twas the Last of November*. The poem is a parody of Clement Clarke Moore's *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*.

As part of our year-end appeal approach this year, we wanted to do something different than what we have done in years past. The poem was sent to our supporters earlier this month, in time for GivingTuesday.

Here is an excerpt from the poem: "We have to work harder," said Kathi to Ryan. // "I gotcha," he said, "but we have been a tryin' // What more can we do to promote contributions? // To generate rev'nue? Come up with solutions?" ([keep reading](#))



TIRF's Musical Group

Newsletter Quiz Winner

Back in October we offered our readers a [TIRF quiz](#), and promised to send a TIRF-published book to the winner. We had planned on announcing the winner of the quiz in our November newsletter, but no one had answered all the questions correctly. Thus we extended the deadline into November and offered our readers a few clues to help answer the questions. The answers are now posted to our website at the link above, along with accompanying explanations.

We are pleased to share that Mrs. Parisa Mehran, TEFL PhD Candidate, Alzahra University (Tehran, Iran), was selected as the winner of the quiz. Her name was drawn at random from the pool of others who also answered our quiz correctly. Parisa chose to receive TIRF's forthcoming publication, *Teaching and Learning English Grammar: Research Findings and Future Directions*.

Congratulations, Parisa! We appreciate all those who took the quiz and hope that you will join in our competitions in the future.

Improving Communication and Understanding in Australia

Editor's note: In this piece, Adriano Truscott, President of the Australian Council of TESOL Association (ACTA), shares information about the 2014 ACTA conference.

The Australian Council of TESOL Associations (ACTA) hosted its fourth international conference in Melbourne, Australia in October. The conference brought together educators and specialists involved with English language teaching and indigenous and multicultural education from over 15 countries.

The ACTA conference is a major event in the Pacific region that combines research, advocacy, and practice. It attracts education specialists from all over the world who gather to share their ideas and debate issues surrounding multicultural education, language rights, and maximizing the social and economic potential of their respective multilingual

contexts.

The biennial ACTA event welcomed over 350 delegates, and more than 130 papers were presented on a range of English teaching issues. Such topics included Indigenous (bilingual/bidialectal) education, early childhood to adult education, education policy, research, teacher education, and peace keeping. This latter topic on peace keeping was addressed by keynote speaker Dr. Joe Lo Bianco (pictured above), University of Melbourne and TIRF Trustee, who gave an update on his own work on language planning and social cohesion in South East Asia.

Other keynote presentations covered topics such as cultural inclusion, assessment, English in Asia, and teacher preparation. Further details and information about presentations are available on the [ACTA conference website](#).



Chair's Report — Reaching Out to the Wider World

As the end of the year is rapidly approaching, it is important for me as the President of TIRF to take stock of where the Foundation is and where we are heading. To do so, I'd like to share some information about our website, which we have been monitoring since February 2008.

The good news is that at some point in mid-November, TIRF reached a new milestone – 200,000 unique visitors to our

site. These visitors hail from nearly every country on earth. While we can be proud that so many people around the world have in interest in our programs, there is still much to be done.

The not-so-great news is that there have only been a handful of visitors from quite a few countries. This information tells me that it is time for us to roll up our sleeves and get to work. We must find ways to reach people with whom

we have very little to no contact.

Our 2015 DDG competition is one of the best ways for us to support researchers and teachers in such countries. And I, along with TIRF's Trustees, are dedicated to making this year's outreach efforts a true success.

Best wishes for the new year!

Kathi Bailey